

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,455,449 to Veiga. Claims 25, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Veiga. As stated in past responses, Applicant believes that Veiga is not available as prior art. In this regard, enclosed is a newly executed Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131. The Declaration has now been signed by the inventor. The Examiner's consideration of the Declaration is, therefore, respectfully requested. In view of the Declaration, Applicant submits that Veiga is not a proper § 102(e) reference and that the claims therefore patentably define over the prior art of record.

In the Office Action, the claims were also rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,632,753. In order to render this rejection moot, Applicant will submit a Terminal Disclaimer in the near future.

Applicant submits the present application is in condition for allowance and action to such effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any minor issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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